7/15/87 A3075-1

MONTHLY TRUCK TONNAGE REPORT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM STATISTICAL ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT
AMERICAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS 2200 MILL ROAD ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 (703) 838-1791

TONNAGE INDEX INCREASES IN MAY

General freight carrier tonnage increased 1.5 points in May, 1987, from April, 1987 according to the ATA Truck Tonnage Index. At a level of 159.0(p) with 1967 = 100, the May tonnage is 1.0 percent above April's 157.5 (r). The current month's volume is 16.4 points (11.5 percent) above the tonnage level in May, 1986.

The actual tons reported by motor carriers in the ATA survey decreased from 4.88 million tons in April to 4.74 million tons in May, 1987. Actual tons decreased 2.7%. Adjustments for variations due to seasonality and the number of working (trading) days increased the May index level to 159.0(p).

From April, 1987, to May, 1987, Industrial Production index increased 0.5% compared to the adjusted general freight tonnage index increase of 1.0%.

These findings were announced today by the American Trucking Associations. (ATA) Statistical Analysis Department. The monthly truck tonnage index is based on a survey of the companywide operations of Class I and II motor carriers of general freight. Index coverage represents in excess of one-half of the tonnage moved by this type of for-hire motor carriers of property subject to Interstate Commerce Commission regulation.

Month-to-month data are compiled using a chain link which, in turn, has been adjusted to remove the normal seasonal influence and variations due to differing numbers of business (trading) days each month.

The current and historic index numbers are shown on the reverse side, along with several other major business indicator series. A "three-month moving average" adjusted truck tonnage index has also been compiled which aids in smoothing out short term non-significant movements in the series.

---

p - preliminary r - revised f - final

INDEXES AND COMPARISONS THROUGH MAY, 1987

1967 = 100

	MAY 1987	APR 1987	MAR 1987	MAY 1986	Monthly % Change 4/87 / 3/87	Monthly % Change 5/87 / 4/87	Yearly % Change
Tonnage Index (adjusted)[1]	159.0p	157.5r	160.4f	142.6f	-1.8	+1.0	+11.5
Tonnage Index (unadjusted)	155.2p	159.5r	171.3f	142.8f	-6.9	-2.7	+8.7
Industrial Production Index[2,5] (total)	127.8	127.2	127.3	124.1	-0.1	+0.5	+3.0
Manufacturers (total)	132.7	132.0	132.2	126.9	-0.2	+0.5	+4.6
Non-durable	135.9	135.1	134.6	125.6	+0.4	+0.6	+8.2
Durable	130.4	129.8	130.5	127.9	-0.5	+0.5	+2.0
Producer Price Index[3] (unadjusted)	307.3	305.1	302.8	289.0	+0.8	+0.7	+6.3
Consumer Price Index[4] (unadjusted)	338.7	337.7	335.9	326.3	+0.5	+0.3	+3.8
Tonnage Reported by 113 Carriers in May, 1987 (000 tons)	4,742	4,875	n.a.	4,808*	n.a.	-2.7	-1.4

p - preliminary r - revised f - final n.a. - not applicable

1 - Adjusted seasonally & for trading days
2 - Seasonally adjusted
3 - Finished goods (formerly Wholesale Price Index)
4 - Goods and services
5 - 1977=100

* The May 1986 tonnage figure is taken from current reports received from carriers (May 1987) and bears no relationship to the tonnage indices shown above.

ADJUSTED MONTHLY TRUCK INDEX — HISTORICAL — 1967 = 100

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
January	129.4	127.3	143.9	140.5	137.9	153.0
February	133.5	127.1	141.6	138.2	141.6	159.6
March	130.8	128.9	144.0	139.2	139.5	160.4
April	130.8	130.1	146.0	137.0	143.5	157.5r
May	131.4	133.8	144.5	137.8	142.6	159.0p
June	131.6	136.8	144.4	135.4	144.2	
July	128.5	149.9	143.5	131.0	152.2	
August	129.8	137.5	145.4	135.1	153.8	
September	128.9	139.1	141.8	136.0	155.7	
October	124.9	138.6	143.4	137.1	157.1	
November	121.4	138.1	144.8	137.5	156.1	
December	125.3	142.2	143.0	135.3	153.7	

* all data are final unless otherwise noted.

Three Month Moving Average of Adjusted Truck Tonnage Index for Recent Months

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1985	140.6	139.3	138.1	138.0	136.7	134.7	133.8	134.0	136.1	136.9	136.6	136.9
1986	138.3	139.7	141.5	141.9	143.4	146.3	150.1	153.9	155.5	156.1	155.6	154.3
1987	155.4	157.7	159.2r	159.0p								

The moving average aids in smoothing out less significant monthly variations.